

Brion Keller, DTM, PDD
739 Dimmock Hill Rd.
Binghamton, NY 13905

April 3, 2021

RE: District 65 Alignment Committee Report

To District Director Linda Lathrop:

Your alignment committee, consisting of Brion Keller (chair), Sam Hill (Div A), Emily Olsen Nemeth (Div B), Matt Benedict (Div C), Claire Warren Ginnan (Div D) and Monica VanAuken (Div E), came into existence with our first meeting in mid December, 2020, although we did not yet have the final member from Division C at that time. Matt agreed to be our final member at the start of February, 2021.

The alignment that needs to be submitted to Toastmasters International for any District to start on July 1, is required to have Areas with between 4 and 6 clubs each and Divisions to contain at least 3 Areas. Even back in December, it was fairly clear that the year of Covid was having a big impact on District 65. We were told that clubs without any member dues payments would be dropped by TI. Clubs with fewer than the minimum 8 member dues payments are normally to be considered suspended if that is true for a second dues period. We were looking at 9 clubs folding with zero membership payments from the October through March dues period plus one club flagged as ineligible (Olean) that has subsequently been officially suspended. We initially worked with the assumption that clubs with fewer than 8 paid members in the Oct – Mar period would be suspended as well. It was only with the arrival of communication from TI on March 17 that informed us they would not be suspending clubs that have fewer than 8 member dues payments, so those clubs would still be viable for the 4-6 clubs required in each Area.

Division A was impacted the most with the loss of 7 corporate clubs no longer meeting due to Covid. These 7 clubs were spread across 4 Areas, causing 3 of those Areas (11, 13 and 16) to drop below the minimum of 4 clubs. Division A also sees the loss the Olean club from Area 14, leaving that Area with 4 clubs; Area 15 also loses one corporate club and drops to 4 clubs. To resolve the issue with Areas 11, 13 and 16, in our proposed alignment we closed Area 16 and put two of its remaining clubs into Area 11 and one into Area 13, taking geographic location into account. Before we received the news from TI on March 17, we had more changes in store for Division A because two of the four remaining clubs in Area 14 are below 8 paid members.

Division B has 4 Areas each with the minimum of 4 clubs and one club was below 8 members. Thanks to the TI input, Division B escapes without any changes.

Division C also has 4 Areas each with the minimum of 4 clubs. There is one corporate club being lost from Area 33. We could suggest dropping Area 33 and distributing the remaining 3 clubs to the other Areas in Division C. That was under consideration as well as the possibility of merging Division C clubs back in with Division B since we did not think a Division with only 3 Areas was a good thing; however, we had a proposal made of “borrowing” a club from another Division to help Area 33. After checking with the club’s president, we have proposed moving the Hornell club from Area 44 in Division D into Area 33 of Division C, allowing it to stay at 4 Areas. With Virtual meetings and contests, this is not expected to burden anyone.

Division D is losing Ithaca College Club, but Area 42 still has 4 clubs. Area 43 was potentially in trouble with the Leaders and Learners Club at Binghamton University not having students on campus; however, a new club chartered into that Area plus the word from TI - that leaves us no concerns with Division D. We thank Division D for helping Division C stay at 4 Areas.

Division E is not losing any clubs, but has two Areas that were going to be impacted from low member suspensions. With the TI letter, there are no issues leaving the existing Areas alone.

Although we clearly have some issues with low membership clubs that could become a problem in the future, we have a bit more time to address those and so we leave our proposed alignment changes to just this minimum required to get our Areas back into the legal 4 to 6 clubs range.

Updated: 4/23/21

It seems the letter from TI of March 17, 2021 for clubs lower than 8 members from the October thru March dues period does not supersede the prior letter from TI of October 2020 in which it states that clubs that did not meet the 8 member dues payment minimum for April 1, 2020 would be given another 6 months (until April 1, 2021) to get to at least 8 paid members. TI sent a copy of this to Brion Keller on 4/23/2021 and we now understand why club 1491 "Speaking as Leaders" in Area 32 of Division C was suspended on April 1, 2021 (although the committee chair did not hear of this until April 21). Because the loss of this club reduces its Area below 4 clubs in good standing, this means we have to drop Division C down to 3 Areas and split the 3 remaining clubs from Area 32 among those 3 remaining Areas. Because we are not permitted to have holes in our Area numbering scheme, we took Area 34 and renamed it to be Area 32 going forward. There is an updated spreadsheet to reflect this named ClubAlignmentWorksheets_v3.xlsx that will be sent to you along with this update. This update includes an update for the alignment reflected in the tables and text below as well.

Below are the original (July 2020) and proposed (July 2021) alignments by Division. Clubs highlighted in **Red** were to be dropped due to zero membership payments or suspension. Clubs highlighted in **Green** are new or forming (prospective) clubs. Clubs highlighted in **Yellow** are proposed changes.

Division A

2020-2021 Starting Alignment

2021-2022 Recommended Alignment

Area 11

3306262	GEICO Toastmasters
5460	AM Lockport Club
6625253	Meet and Toast
7569853	Crosspoint Communicators
6570076	M&T Leaders and Speakers

Area 11

6635	UB Westwinds Toastmasters Club
5460	AM Lockport Club
6625253	Meet and Toast
4188315	Amherst Chamber Toastmasters
6570076	M&T Leaders and Speakers

Area 12

6814964	League of Her Own Toastmasters
6588726	HSBC Toastmasters
7051210	What You Talkin' About Willis?
1279724	Prose of Speech
4514848	Rhetorical Roar

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Area 13

5343756	GPI Cheektowaga Toastmasters
6659600	Child & Family Services Toastmasters
1747	E S B Club
1184187	Buffalo Flyers
1495286	Clarence Toastmasters

Area 13

1321783	Scientifically Speaking
1747	E S B Club
1184187	Buffalo Flyers
1495286	Clarence Toastmasters

Area 14

1407031	Chautauqua Talks Toastmasters
2993	Concord Spellbinders Club
639290	Moog Club
4191	Olean Toastmasters (sus. 4/1/2021)
2325	Speakeasy Club

Area 14

1407031	Chautauqua Talks Toastmasters
2993	Concord Spellbinders Club
639290	Moog Club
2325	Speakeasy Club

Area 15

4350	Downtown Toastmasters
3077974	Lawley Lingo
1196232	The Larkin Leaders
3924071	Toast of Roswell
4016851	BPC Toastmasters

Area 15

4350	Downtown Toastmasters
3077974	Lawley Lingo
1196232	The Larkin Leaders
3924071	Toast of Roswell

Area 16

6635	UB Westwinds Toastmasters Club
1037259	Praxair Toastmasters Club
1321783	Scientifically Speaking
6738818	MAHLE Toastmasters Club
4188315	Amherst Chamber Toastmasters

Division B (no changes)

2019-2020 Starting Alignment

Area 21

8182	Speak Up Club
670636	Toasted Sage Club
1122241	Spacetalkers
6889724	Agency Speech Warriors

Area 22

476	Rochester Club
1044	Speechcrafters Club
9207	Advanced Toastmasters Club
3641921	Tiger Tales Toastmasters

Area 23

3685	Daybreakers Club
4840	MCC Toastmasters Club
7385	P.O.W.E.R. Toastmasters Club
5163221	Ortho Toastmasters

Area 24

7620	Rochester High Noon Club
608344	Mercury West Club
762906	Blues Expression Club
1444942	Assured Communicators

2020-2021 Recommended Alignment

Area 21

8182	Speak Up Club
670636	Toasted Sage Club
1122241	Spacetalkers
6889724	Agency Speech Warriors

Area 22

476	Rochester Club
1044	Speechcrafters Club
9207	Advanced Toastmasters Club
3641921	Tiger Tales Toastmasters

Area 23

3685	Daybreakers Club
4840	MCC Toastmasters Club
7385	P.O.W.E.R. Toastmasters Club
5163221	Ortho Toastmasters

Area 24

7620	Rochester High Noon Club
608344	Mercury West Club
762906	Blues Expression Club
1444942	Assured Communicators

Division C:

2019-2020 Starting Alignment

2020-2021 Recommended Alignment

Area 31

1990	The Communicators
6898	Frederick Douglass Toastmasters Club
1416572	Toastchex
7421734	WMasters

Area 31

1990	The Communicators
6898	Frederick Douglass Toastmasters Club
1416572	Toastchex
7421734	WMasters
8789	Toastitarians Club

Area 32

1491	Speaking As Leaders
1993	Lyceum Club
8789	Toastitarians Club
4854675	Sylvester Anderson's Voices To Be Heard

Area 32

1831	TNT Toastmasters Club
1263588	Canandaigua Community TM
2355592	Peer 2 Peer Toastmasters
6978394	Bosch Fairport Toastmasters
1993	Lyceum Club

Area 33

3259	Postprandial Toastmasters
4323	Life Learners Club
1817973	Speakers Today Leaders Tomorrow
2227960	Pinnacle Toastmasters Club

Area 33

3259	Postprandial Toastmasters
4323	Life Learners Club
6059734	Hornell Area Toastmasters Club
2227960	Pinnacle Toastmasters Club
4854675	Sylvester Anderson's Voices To Be Heard

Area 34

1831	TNT Toastmasters Club
1263588	Canandaigua Community TM
2355592	Peer 2 Peer Toastmasters
6978394	Bosch Fairport Toastmasters

Division D

2019-2020 Starting Alignment

Area 41

2584	Endicott Club
2875	Morning Knights Toastmasters Club
1089603	LM Owego Toastmasters
1417631	Speakers of the House
6839259	Visions Toastmasters Club
7290345	KSTI

Area 42

2465	Crown City Club
4998	Cayuga Club
9817	Ithaca College Club
2389916	Big Red Toastmasters
7553064	FLCE Toastmasters

Area 43

4524	River City Toastmasters Club
9253	Oneonta Toastmasters Club
6752849	Cooperstown Toastmasters
7438	Leaders And Learners Club
7846404	Universally Speaking Club (2/1/2021)

Area 44

1445431	Shut Up & Speak
6059734	Hornell Area Toastmasters Club
7758929	Toast of Corning
3640191	Carpe Diem Toastmasters
3220612	Speak Up - CNY
7290	Barrier Breakers Club

2020-2021 Recommended Alignment

Area 41

2584	Endicott Club
2875	Morning Knights Toastmasters Club
1089603	LM Owego Toastmasters
1417631	Speakers of the House
6839259	Visions Toastmasters Club
7290345	KSTI

Area 42

2465	Crown City Club
4998	Cayuga Club
2389916	Big Red Toastmasters
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Area 43

4524	River City Toastmasters Club
9253	Oneonta Toastmasters Club
6752849	Cooperstown Toastmasters
7438	Leaders And Learners Club
7846404	Universally Speaking Club

Area 44

1445431	Shut Up & Speak
7758929	Toast of Corning
3640191	Carpe Diem Toastmasters
3220612	Speak Up - CNY
7290	Barrier Breakers Club

Division E (no changes)

2019-2020 Starting Alignment

Area 51

1427	Empire Statesmen
4167	Talk-Eaze Club
794497	Talk the Talk
1052451	Toasting the Blues

Area 52

1027292	Orange Orators
2163729	Master Toast
2251028	Talk of the AXA Towers
3939885	Syracuse VA Voices
4885982	Good Morning Syracuse

Area 53

5776	Bristol Speaker Toastmasters Club
1588577	Spartan Speakers
5702952	Live Learn Lead Toastmasters
5959290	Toast the Grid

Area 54

580	Syracuse Club
4448	Port City Toastmasters Club
6826	North Star Club
7549	Select Club
5642996	UTC Syracuse Toasters Club

Area 55

1271	Mohawk Valley Toastmasters Club
5194	Utica National Toastmasters Club
715396	Roman Orators
1241967	CNY BizTalkers

2020-2021 Recommended Alignment

Area 51

1427	Empire Statesmen
4167	Talk-Eaze Club
794497	Talk the Talk
1052451	Toasting the Blues

Area 52

1027292	Orange Orators
2163729	Master Toast
2251028	Talk of the AXA Towers
3939885	Syracuse VA Voices
4885982	Good Morning Syracuse

Area 53

5776	Bristol Speaker Toastmasters Club
1588577	Spartan Speakers
5702952	Live Learn Lead Toastmasters
5959290	Toast the Grid

Area 54

580	Syracuse Club
4448	Port City Toastmasters Club
6826	North Star Club
7549	Select Club
5642996	UTC Syracuse Toasters Club

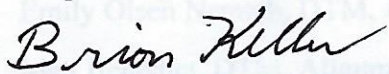
Area 55

1271	Mohawk Valley Toastmasters Club
5194	Utica National Toastmasters Club
715396	Roman Orators
1241967	CNY BizTalkers

With this proposed alignment, all Divisions and Areas are within Toastmasters International guidelines and the District is poised to handle new clubs in any Division. Loss of clubs next year may cause certain Areas to drop under the minimum of 4 clubs, which will cause a need for further alignment changes at that time. This can be avoided if new clubs are added and existing clubs become stronger, things we can all agree would be good for our District.

It should be noted that we kept the move of the Hornell club from Area 44 into Area 33 even though that was no longer sufficient to keep Division C at 4 Areas. This was done to minimize the disruption from this last-minute change based on the new information from TI. There is no significant reason to avoid that move; however, it will leave us with a legal alignment if we choose to drop movement of that club into Area 33 from the proposed alignment.

Respectfully submitted,



Brion Keller DTM, PDD Alignment Committee Chair

Sam Hill, ACB, CL, EC1, Alignment Committee Member

Emily Olsen Nemeth, DTM, Alignment Committee Member

Matt Benedict, DTM, Alignment Committee Member

Claire Warren Ginnan, DTM, Alignment Committee Member

Monica VanAuken, DTM, Alignment Committee Member